

Community Preservation Act Committee Proposal Request Form for FY 2016

Date: 12-10-14

Submitting Entity: Amherst Leisure Services and
Supplemental Education, LSSE

CPA funding category

Check all that apply

- ☐ Community Housing
- ☐ Open Space
- ☐ Historic Preservation
- ☒ Recreation

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Overview of Proposal: – Please describe your project and your feasibility analysis

The North Amherst Field is located on Sunderland Road near the intersection of Route 63 and North Pleasant Street in North Amherst. The small area was once the playing field for the former North Amherst School building which occupies the majority of the 3 acre site.

Our proposal is to create a safe and usable field with minimal improvements--parking and player safety fencing. While historically this small recreation area functioned as an informal baseball practice field, today's recreation needs are trending toward multipurpose field uses and include lacrosse, ultimate, soccer and other programs that do not require a field diamond. With the addition of an updated movable backstop, informal baseball practice could continue at this location along with greatly expanded uses.

The small size of the parcel makes it ideal for youth play. The field abuts Sunderland Road and requires safety fencing in order to protect all players from following a stray ball into vehicular traffic. An informal TRG parking area would eliminate the need for families to cross Sunderland Road to reach the site and allow more and safer access. The few parking spaces connected to the site primarily serve the building occupants and are away from the field on the south side of the school building.

See images below for existing conditions—no parking and no fence along Sunderland Road. See attached images showing proposed improvements—parking, fence and activated multi-purpose playing field.

Describe how your request meets the CPA criteria:

1. Description of funding needed including:

a. Documentation of cost estimates

The project improvements include fencing, possible removal of the backstop, a TRG parking area, waste receptacles and signage and are estimated to cost \$50,000.

b. Other sources of funding, e.g., grants, self-funding, fund-raising

No other identifiable sources at this time.

c. Timeline on how CPA funds, if awarded, would be spent including over multiple years
With funding available beginning July 1st, 2015, improvements would occur during the fall 2015 and spring 2016 allowing for use beginning summer 2016.

2. Urgency of the Project, if any

Many of our Town playing fields are overused and wet during the spring and fall seasons. Wet and overused fields lead to cancelled or rescheduled games, practices and programs, disappointed youth and families and possibly physical injuries. While the Town has owned this property for decades, the usage has been limited due to unsafe conditions and the lack of access. Given the shortfall of safe playing fields this project is urgent.

This project will provide greater and safer recreational use for families, youth and young children. The project will alleviate scheduling pressure and improve field maintenance on other playing fields.

3. Estimated timeline from receipt of funds to Project completion

One year from July 2014 when funds would be received to July 2016 when project is completed.

4. Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources

None

5. Population(s) to be served by the Project

Young children, youth, families

6. How will the CPA investment in your property, facility or project be maintained over time?

This field is currently mowed by Amherst DPW and that function will continue.

7. How the Project is prioritized by requesting Town committees or commissions?

This project is cited in Amherst's Open Space and Recreation Plan -2009 Update.

Section 9. Seven Year Action Plan

Goal 3. Provide and develop multi-use and multigenerational recreational opportunities that bring townspeople together.

Actions

- Inventory old "pocket park" projects (Stanley Street, Cow Field {this is referring to the North Amherst Field}, Orchard Valley, Pomeroy Court) and develop a plan for their restoration to better serve the public's use.

Objectives:

- Establish recreational opportunities near population centers such as existing neighborhoods and the Town Center.

- Maintain, renovate and adapt existing parks, facilities, fields and recreational areas to serve multiple purposes and to meet the changing recreational trends of the community from lacrosse to soccer to swimming.

8. Other information regarding the Project deemed necessary for CPAC

This project makes more effective use of a parcel that is currently owned by the Town but underused due to its adjacency to street traffic and the lack of adequate parking.

Existing Conditions of the North Amherst Field

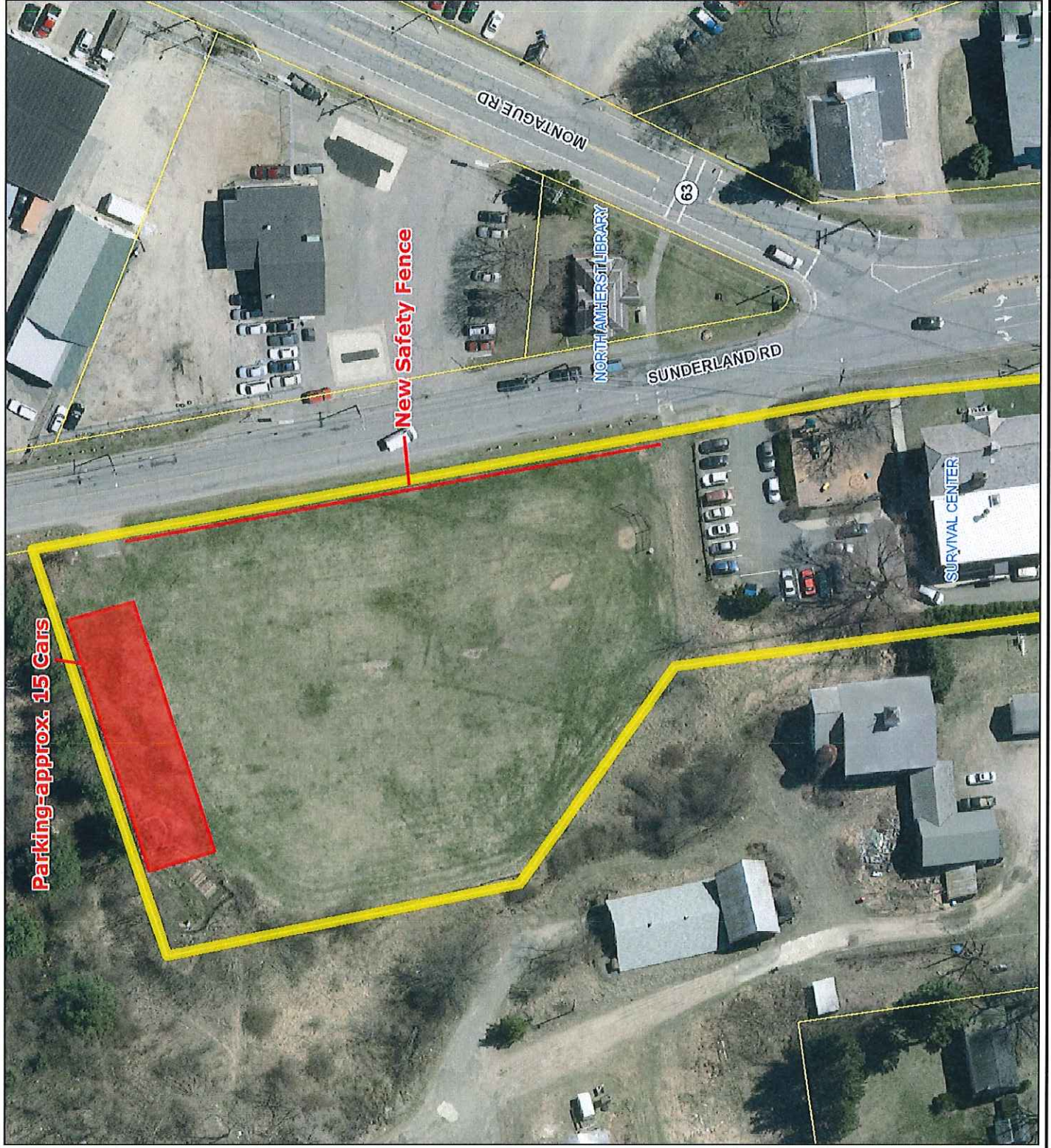




Cow Field CPA



- Property Map
 - Property Lines
 - Easements
 - Adjacent Towns Parcels
- Basemap
 - Streets
 - Local Roads
 - Major Roads
 - State Routes
 - MassDOT Roads
 - Limited Access Highway
 - Multi-lane Hwy, not limited access
 - Other Numbered Highway
 - Major Road, Collector
 - Minor Road, Arterial
 - Ramp



Horizontal Datum: MA Stateplane Coordinate System, Zone 4151, NAD83, Feet; Vertical Datum: NAVD88, FT
 Planimetric & topographic basemap compiled at 1"=40' scale from April, 2009 Aerial Photography, Parcels compiled to match the basemap; revisions are ongoing.

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It may not be adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or property conveyance purposes. Utility structures & underground utility locations are approximate & require field verification.

The Town of Amherst makes no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of these data, & does not assume any liability associated with the use or misuse of these data.



1" = 75 ft

